Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

# Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 11836 01 OF 03 130914Z
ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 L-03 H-01 PA-01
SP-02 ICA-11 AID-05 EB-08 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07
OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-10
NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00
SNM-05 DEAE-00 /122 W
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P 130846Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8433
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 03 MANILA 11836

USADB

FOR NAC AGENCIES

EO11652:NA
TAGS: EAID, EFIN, ADB, AF
SUBJECT: PROPOSED ADB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE LOAN AND GRANT FOR SERAJ AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN AFGHANISTAN

REF: MANILA 11434

SUMMARY: ADB MANAGEMENT PROPOSES DOLLARS 1.45 MILLION EQUIVALENT LOAN FROM SPECIAL FUNDS RESOURCES AND DOLLARS 150,000 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN FOR THE SERAJ AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT. THE LOAN/GRANT WILL BE USED TO FINANCE THE FOREX COST OF CONSULTING SERVICES AND EQUIPMENT FOR PREPARING A FEASIBILITY STUDY AND DESIGN, SPECIFICATIONS AND TENDER DOCUMENTS FOR THE PROPOSED SERAJ PROJECT. THE PROPOSED PROJECT ENABLES THE GOVERNMENT TO PREPARE A
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PAGE 02 MANILA 11836 01 OF 03 130914Z

FEASIBILITY STUDY AND DESIGNS AND TENDER DOCUMENTS UNDER A SINGLE BANK-FINANCED TA. THE PROPOSAL CONSTITUTES A LOGICAL NEXT STEP IN THE BANK'S PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE UPPER HELMAND VALLEY. IT IS A FOLLOW-ON TO THE BANK-FINANCED KAJAKAI GATES PROJECT. THE SCOPE AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTING SERVICES APPEAR REASONABLE AS THE PROJECT IS AIMED PRIMARILY AT OWNER-

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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OPERATED FARMS AVERAGING ABOUT 6 HA OF WHICH 4.5 HA ARE TYPICALLY CULTIVATED. THE RPOPOSED TA APPEARS APPROPRIATE FOR AFGHANISTAN'S INCREASING REQUIREMENTS FOR IRRIGATING ITS AGRICULTURE LANDS AND THE TECHNOLOGY RECOMMENDED IS IN KEEPING WITH A NUMBER OF SIMILAR PROJECTS IN THE COUNTRY. USADB RECOMMENDS FAVORABLE NAC ACTION. END SUMMARY.

1. ADB DOC. R65-78 WITH ATTACHMENTS DESCRIBING PROPOSED LOAN/GRANT POUCHED ADDRESSEES JULY 10. BOARD CONSIDERATION IS SCHEDULED JULY 27, 1978.

2. ADB MANAGEMENT PROPOSES DOLLARS 1.45 MILLION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE LOAN FROM SPECIAL FUNDS RESOURCES AND DOLLARS 150,000 TA GRANT TO AFGHANISTAN FOR THE SERAJ AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT. PROCEEDS WILL FINANCE THE FOREX COST OF CONSULTING SERVICES FOR STAGE I, FEASIBILITY STUDY AND FOR STAGE II, DESIGN AND TENDER DOCUMENTS. THE STUDY IS RELATED TO AN AREA OF ABOUT 19,000 HA OF WHICH 11,000 HA ARE NOT PRESENTLY IRRIGATED. PROPOSED TERMS ARE 10 YEARS AMORTIZATION INCLUDING 2 YEAR GRACE PERIOD AND A 1 PERCENT PER ANNUM SERVICE CHARGE. THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN IS THE BORROWER AND THE MINISTRY OF WATER AND POWER IS THE EXECUTING AGENCY.

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3. THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR ACCOUNTS FOR ABOUT 56 PERCENT OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT AND GENERATES MORE THAN 50 PERCENT OF FOREX EARNINGS. CROP PRODUCTION ACCOUNTS FOR ABOUT 38 PERCENT OF GDP WHICH LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION ACCOUNTS FOR 16 PERCENT. ABOUT 80 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION LIVE IN RURAL AREAS. CULTIVATED AREA AT PRESENT COVERS ONLY ABOUT 3.9 MILLION HA OR ABOUT 6 PERCENT OF THE COUNTRY'S TOTAL LAND AREA. TOTAL LAND AREA SUITABLE FOR IRRIGATION PURPOSES, I.E., LAND SITUATED ALONG THE FEW PERENNIAL WATER COURSES IN THE COUNTRY, IS ESTIMATED AT 5.0 MILLION HA OF WHICH ONLY 2.6 MILLION HA HAVE SO FAR BEEN DEVELOPED. UNFORTUNATELY HALF OF THE DEVELOPED AREA LACKS ADEQUATE WATER SUPPLY IN SUMMER BECAUSE OF THE UNREGULATED, SEASONABLY VARIABLE RIVER DISCHARGES ON WHICH IT DEPENDS. PROBLEMS OF LOW LITERACY - ESTIMATED AT 10 PERCENT, LAND TENURE AND LACK OF FARMER'S ORGANIZATIONS AND FORMAL WATER SHARING ARRANGEMENTS AND THE EXISTENCE OF LARGE, DIFFICULT SERVICE NOMAD POPULATION AGGRAVATE THE NORMAL GEOGRAPHICAL CLIMATE AND INSTITUTIONAL CONSTRAINTS ON THE ADOPTION OF MORE ADVANCED CULTIVATION AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY TECHNIQUES. DESPITE THESE UNFAVORABLE ELEMENTS, THE GOVERNMENT'S 7 YEAR PLAN'S TARGETS FOR AGRICULTURAL

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

DEVELOPMENT ARE AMBITIOUS AND INCLUDE A PROJECTED 4.6
PERCENT AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH FOR THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR
COMPATED WITH ITS PERFORMANCE OF ONLY 2 PERCENT OVER THE
PAST SEVERAL YEARS. THE PLAN CONTEMPLATES REHABILITATING
335,000 HA AND DEVELOPING 62,000 HA OF NEW LAND OVER THE
PLAN PERIOD.

4. THE PROJECT AREA UNDER CONSIDERATION IN THE PROPOSED
LOAN/GRANT IS LOCATED ABOUT 500 KM SOUTHEAST OF KABUL
NEAR THE CONFLUENCE OF THE HELMAND AND ARGHANDAB RIVERS.
WHILE ACCESS TO THE GENERAL AREA IS GOOD, FARM-TO-MARKET
ACCESS WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA IS POOR. THE SETTLED
POPULATION IN THE AREA IS ESTIMATED TO BE NEARLY 10,000,
EXCLUDING NOMADS WHO ARE IN THE AREA FROM TIME TO TIME
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PAGE 04 MANILA 11836 01 OF 03 130914Z

EACH YEAR. ALSO, PART-TIME OCCUPANTS ARE FOUND ON

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PAGE 01 MANILA 11836 02 OF 03 130925Z
ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 L-03 H-01 PA-01
SP-02 ICA-11 AID-05 EB-08 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 03 MANILA 11836

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UNIRRIGATED LANDS AT TIMES. THE AVERAGE LAND HOLDING IN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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CULTIVATED PORTIONS OF THE PROJECT AREA IS ABOUT 6 HA OF WHICH 4.5 HA ARE USUALLY CULTIVATED. ABOUT 92 PERCENT OF FARMS ARE OWNER-OPERATED. SUBSISTENCE FARMING PREDOMINATES IN THE CULTIVATED PORTIONS OF THE PROJECT AREA WITH SOIL TYPES AND CROPPING PATTERNS VARYING WIDELY. OF THE 19,000 HA, 11,000 HA IN THE PROJECT AREA ARE CONSIDERED NON-CROPPED ALTHOUGH, IN RELATIVELY WET YEARS, SOME PORTIONS RECEIVE LIMITED AMOUNTS OF WATER CONVEYED BY TEMPORARY, MAKE SHIFT CHANNELS. AGRICULTURAL SUPPORTING SERVICES IN THE UPPER HELMAND VALLEY ARE PROVIDED PRIMARILY THROUGH THE HELMAND ARGHANDAB VALLEY AUTHORITY (HAVA), THE AG BANK AND THE AFGHANISTAN FERTILIZER COMPANY (AFC). WHILE SERVICES PROVIDED TO PROJECT AREA ARE BETTER THAN IN MANY OTHER AREAS OF THE COUNTRY, THESE ARE STILL INADEQUATE. THE PROJECT WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE EXISTING KAJAKAI DAM LOCATED ABOUT 50 KM UP STREAM
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FROM THE PROJECT AREA ON THE HELMAND RIVER, AS WELL AS THE FACILITIES OF THE CURRENT KAJAKAI GATES PROJECT WHICH INVOLVES INSTALLATION OF RADIAL SPILLWAY GATES IN THE UNCONTROLLED SPILLWAY OF THE EXISTING DAM. UNDER THE PROJECT THE CAPACITY OF THE KAJAKAI RESERVOIR WILL BE INCREASED FROM 1,700 MCM TO ABOUT 2,700 MCM WHICH SHOULD THEN PROVIDE YEAR-ROUND FLOWS IN THE HELMAND RIVER TO MEET ALL FORESEEABLE DOWN STREAM DEMANDS INCLUDING THOSE FOR THE SERAJ AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT. IN ADDITION THE PROJECT WILL EMPHASIZE THE STRENGTHENING OF AGRICULTURAL SUPPORTING SERVICES INCLUDING RESEARCH AND EXTENSION, SUPPLY OF AGRO-CHEMICAL INPUTS AND SEEDS, CREDIT, STORAGE, PROCESSING AND MARKETING. ADDITIONALLY, IT WOULD INCLUDE THE SOCIAL AND SETTLEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIRED TO ACCOMMODATE THE NEWLY SETTLED AND EXISTING POPULATION OF THE AREA. THE CONSULTANTS UNDER THE PROPOSED PROJECT ARE EXPECTED TO ASSESS A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES THAT ARE CONSIDERED IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF ANY PROJECT THAT MAY EMERGE FROM THEIR STUDY. THE PROPOSED STUDY WILL REQUIRE ABOUT 72 MAN-MONTHS OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR STAGE I AND 66 MAN-MONTHS FOR STAGE II.

5. THE ESTIMATED COST OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT IS DOLLARS 2.35 MILLION OF WHICH DOLLARS 1.6 MILLION ARE EXPECTED TO BE IN FOREX AND DOLS 750,000 IN LOCAL CURRENCY COSTS. STAGE I IS ESTIMATED AT DOLLARS 875,000 AND STAGE II AT DOLLARS 786,000. STAGE I AND II SHARED COSTS, I.E., ITEMS AND SERVICES NOT ASSIGNABLE TO ONE OR THE OTHER, ARE ESTIMATED AT DOLLARS 689,000. ALL PRICES USED IN THE CALCULATIONS ARE 1978 COSTS C.I.F. KABUL. AS THE CONTRACTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE LET IN 1978 NO PRICE INCREASES HAVE BEEN CALCULATED IN THE ESTIMATED COSTS. IN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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ACCORDANCE WITH CURRENT BANK POLICY ON TA OPERATIONS,
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PAGE 03 MANILA 11836 02 OF 03 130925Z

THE INITIAL DOLLARS 150,000 IN FOREX IS GRANT FUNDING AND REMAINING DOLLARS 1.45 MILLION IS FROM SPECIAL FUNDS RESOURCES.

6. THE MINISTRY OF WATER AND POWER (MWP) IS THE EXECUTING AGENCY FOR THE PROPOSED TA. THE MWP IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION OF WATER RESOURCES IN AFGHANISTAN. THE MWP IS CURRENTLY THE EXECUTING AGENCY FOR TWO BANK-FINANCED PROJECTS. FOLLOWING INITIAL DELAYS, THE PROJECTS ARE NOW PROCEEDING SATISFACTORILY. COUNTERPART PERSONNEL WILL BE PROVIDED BY MWP THROUGH ITS PLANNING AND WATER AND SOIL SURVEY DEPARTMENTS. THESE TWO DEPARTMENTS CURRENTLY HAVE AN ACTIVE STRENGTH OF ABOUT 100 PROFESSIONALS AND 300 TECHNICIANS SUPPORTED BY MORE THAN 300 ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF. MWP HAS A RELATIVELY WELL-EQUIPPED AGRICULTURAL SOILS AND CHEMICALS AND ENGINEERING LABORATORY IN KABUL. HAVA ALSO OPERATES SIMILAR FACILITIES IN THE PROJECT AREA. BOTH LABS WILL BE USED IN SUPPORT OF THE TA.

7. THE BANK AND THE GOVERNMENT HAVE DISCUSSED THE ISSUE OF ILLICIT POPPY PRODUCTION IN PROJECT AREAS FINANCED BY THE BANK IN GENERAL OVER THE PAST YEAR AND IN RECENT MONTHS IN REGARDS TO THE SERAJ AREA. AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED WHEREBY THE GOVERNMENT WILL PROVIDE A SIDE-LETTER TO THE BANK EXPRESSING ITS ASSURANCES THAT IT WOULD TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS FOR THE PREVENTION AND ELIMINATION OF THE GROWTH OF OPIUM POPPIES IN THE PROJECT AREA (SEE REFTEL). THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ADVISED THAT THE BANK EXPECTS TO RECEIVE INFORMATION ON ACTUAL PROGRESS OF THE ENFORCEMENT OF THIS ASSURANCE. THE GOVERNMENT ALSO AGREED TO INCLUDE LANGUAGE ON POPPY PROHIBITION IN THE LOAN AGREEMENT WHEN AND IF A CONSTRUCTION LOAN IS APPROVED BY THE BANK.

- PROCUREMENT POSSIBILITIES

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PAGE 04 MANILA 11836 02 OF 03 130925Z

8. U.S. CONSULTING FIRMS SHOULD BE INFORMED THAT AN EXPATRIATE CONSULTING FIRM WILL BE ENGAGED UNDER THE PROPOSED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO CARRY OUT BOTH STAGES OF THE WORK IN ASSOCIATION WITH GOVERNMENT COUNTERPARTS AS FOLLOWS: STAGE I - FEASIBILITY; THE FEASIBILITY STUDY

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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P 130846Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8443
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 03 OF 03 MANILA 11836

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IS EXPECTED TO ESTABLISH THE SCOPE, CONFIGURATION AND DETAILS, AND ESTIMATED COST OF THE SERAJ AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AND WOULD VERIFY ITS TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC VIABILITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF REFERENCE. THE STUDY WILL COVER ALL ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT, INCLUDING IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE, AGRONOMY AND SOILS, LIVESTOCK, AGRICULTURAL SUPPORTING SERVICES, SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS, INCLUDING SETTLEMENT ASPECTS, ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS, IMPLEMENTATION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, COSTS AND ECONOMIC VIABILITY. THIS STAGE SHOULD BE COMPLETED IN ABOUT 8 MONTHS AND IS EXPECTED TO REQUIRE ABOUT 12 PROFESSIONALS FOR A TOTAL OF 72 MAN-MONTHS. STAGE II - DESIGN AND TENDER DOCUMENTS; DEPENDING ON THE OUTCOME OF STAGE I, THE CONSULTANTS WILL PREPARE DETAILED DESIGNS, TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS, PREQUALIFICATION AND TENDER DOCUMENTS FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT WITH COMPONENTS AND CONFIGURATIONS AS DETERMINED
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IN STAGE I. ALL DOCUMENTS WOULD REFLECT THE PLANNED PHASING OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT, AND WOULD BE SUITABLE FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BANK'S GUIDELINES FOR PROCUREMENT. A TOTAL OF 9 MONTHS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR STAGE II AND WILL REQUIRE THE SERVICES OF ABOUT 12 SPECIALISTS FOR A TOTAL OF ABOUT 66 MAN-MONTHS. STAGE II WILL PROCEED ONLY AFTER THE BANK AND GOVERNMENT ARE SATISFIED THAT THE ASSESSMENT IN STAGE I IS REALISTIC AND REASONABLE.

9. USADB COMMENT: BANK STAFF ARE TO BE COMMENDED FOR THE PREPARATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR WHAT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE A VERY COMPLEX AND DIFFICULT PROJECT TO IMPLEMENT IN AFGHANISTAN. ITS EMPHASIS ON TRAINING, DEVELOPMENT OF SUPPORTING SERVICES AND INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS OF IRRIGATION FARMING IS MOST APPROPRIATE. WE REINFORCE MANAGEMENT'S PLAN TO SCRUTINIZE CAREFULLY THE STAGE I ASSESSMENT PRIOR TO MAKING A COMMITMENT TO PROCEED TO STAGE II. USADB RECOMMENDS FAVORABLE NAC ACTION.

10. REQUEST AMEMBASSY KABUL COMMENTS FOR NAC AGENCIES, INFO USADB MANILA, PURSUANT TO STATE 119795 DATED JULY 3, 1972. EDMOND

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# Message Attributes

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20 Mar 2014
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